

GANGES AT HOY BENARES.

The Greatest Human Spectacle in India.

Ceremonies in Which 100,000 People Take part—Burial of the Dead—A Picture of Heathenism Triumph.

The greatest spectacle in India is the annual gathering of worshippers along the river bank at Benares. Even when the tourist sees it, which is generally in the winter, there are from 20,000 to 50,000 bathers along the city front. At the summer festivals three times that number take part in the ceremony.

It is the dream of every pious Hindu to die in Benares, to have his body cremated at the edge of the "Mother Ganges" and the ashes committed to her flood. If he once goes to Benares his dream is pretty sure to be realized.

The city stretches for three miles along the left or west bank of the Ganges, and all the city's extent is sacred ground. Who dies there on the left bank is sure of exalted estate hereafter; while the right bank is desolate and unscathed, and whoever dies on that stretch of Ganges shore becomes a donkey in the next incarnation, without hope forever.

One bank of the muddy stream is steep and high, crowded with palaces, temples and hanging gardens, with the broad, magnificent flights of steps, called ghats, sweeping down between them to the river.

The opposite shore is low and sandy. The Maharajah of Benares has a white marble palace on the right bank, far up stream, but no one dies in this Ramnagar palace, nor in the village behind it, if mortal effort can prevent. The dying are carried to boats in panic haste, for it is as good to give the death rattle on the Ganges' breast as on the Benares shore.

To see the sunrise bathing one starts before daylight, when in the winter months it is bitterly cold even though one may be glad of the shelter of a sun umbrella before noon.

Describing her experience Eliza Soldmore says in the National Geographic Magazine that when they had passed down the great steps and the household was pulled off from the bank a murmur of voices rose the length of the ghats from the tens of thousands on platforms built over the water or standing waist deep in the water, repeating in muttered chant the ancient Vedic hymns.

They dipped themselves beneath the waves, they lifted in their hands and let it trickle through their fingers or ran down their arms, and they dipped their feet in the water and they dipped their feet in the water and they dipped their feet in the water.

Each one was absorbed entirely in the long religious recitals. They paid no heed to us, nor to any happenings, for the Hindu mind is so exacting that if they should make a slip or omission they would have to begin all over again.

For the priests and high caste Brahmins the daily prayers of two hours duration by the water side, and continue all day, but the ordinary man gets his morning ceremony done in far less time, wades back to shore and dry garments, and studies himself with a fresh caste mark for the day. He fills a brass jar with water and strolls along the ghats with the crowd stops for a prayer or two salams to a cow or two, pours his water offering over some grassy bank, and his religious work is done.

Not every believer goes to the Ganges every morning. Some of the poor and the sickly may not think their religious duties entirely, for as the city has a fixed population of 225,000, and a floating population of 10,000 to 20,000 it is only an eighth or tenth of them all that halt the sun across the Mother Ganges.

All who do go are in evidence save the few high caste and noble women who arrive before daylight and are rowed out in curtained boats to bathe and pray unseen in midstream. It must require physical courage as well as religious zeal to breast that cold, muddy current on a frosty morning, especially as the majority of these people have only a double cotton sheet for protection.

At the women's chat every woman carries a brass water jar or a still larger and heavier jar of red pottery and the procession of gracefully draped figures going up and down the broad ghats is an unending delight. Swathed in their winding saris, they wade into the river and pray, one is sure, to every Hindu deity which the ten fingers represent. They then come into the world again in some human form less ignoble than a woman's.

They go back to shore and deftly and gracefully in fresh saris and drop the wet ones to the steps without once uncovering the face or exposing their feet and hands. They scour their bare lotus feet with mud, they wash their hair with sacred muck and fill the jars to take home at the very mouths of the city waters.

The devotees show no fastidious choice in dipping the water they drink. All is Ganges water and all is sacred.

The burning ghat where human bodies are cremated is a neglected bank gullied by rains. Pyres, some new, others half consumed, are scattered about. Ghats are poking among the ashes for coals or jewels, while more systematic ones carry pans or ashes to the water's edge and wash this dirt like any place else. Along this revolting sequel to yesterday's burning lie fresh bodies, wrapped in white sheets and garlands of marigolds. The bodies are dipped in the Ganges and laid in rows, with the sacred stream laying their feet and profane ghats washing pay dirt from yesterday's pyres between and beside them, shuddering and shivering under the helpless, flower wreathed bundles.

This rude open air crematory is the monopoly of the droll, lowest caste of all peoples, who charge extravagantly for their service and for the wood, the oil and the flame which lights the funeral torch for touching off the pyre.

The earlier in the morning the burning occurs the greater certainty of paradise for the deceased. So the droll's charges with extravagant sums for burning the rich and noble at sunrise and decrease until in the afternoon the very poor and the criminals from prison are burned—half burned—and the rubbish and bones shovelled down the bank.

Only the highest caste priests and the holy fakirs escape the torch. They are not supposed to need purification by fire. The fakirs are rowed to midstream and committed to Mother Ganges—probably to the alligators.

As the morning wears up all Benares strolls along the ghats, as all Atlantic city strolls to the beach. The fakirs keep on performing rites and prayers while their next neighbor on the over-hanging platform shampoos his head or brushes his teeth.

Sons of the Ganges, a band of robust freshmen whose specialty is prayer for the dead, below the merits of their interceding powers; fakirs walk and hold their shivels arms more conspicuously in the to your noses or tightly or stretch themselves more ostentatiously on the beds of mats.

And everywhere the sacred cows push their way, nosing into grain sacks and rice bowls unhindered, while stately Brahmins, painted in geometrical devices of the highest caste and piety, salam abjectly to them—a mad woman, a crazy crowd, surly.

The throng is densest, the buzz and the bellowing loudest at the ghats below the cremation ground, for there are the sacred pools filled with Vishnu's perspiration, and where Devi dropped her ear-ring.

At this storm center of the holy land the Ganges bank the din and the hot sun are dizzying and the mixture of Ganges water, old flower garlands, milk, butter, oil, sweetmeats, spices and incense, cast into the tank all day and every day smells to heaven. The odor is sickening, the sight more so, and the lepers and hideous sick folk who crawl up and down the steps are fit flumes in this picture of heathenism triumphant and undimmed.

Perhaps it is well that Mrs. Annie Benson has established her college at Benares to teach the Hindu their own religion, the purer faith of Vedic times, freed from all the idolatrous and crazy abominations of later days. Nothing could be as bad as the creed that now enslaves the Hindu.

Persons and unbalanced Europeans, who come out to India loudly proclaiming their willingness to labor with Mrs. Benson's college, and even Pierre Loti, after all his sentimentalism over the Hindu, could not stand the severe and monkish life prescribed for him by the English prophetess and returned to the fleshpots of the worldly folk.

At the recent death of Judge Josiah Turner of Owasco, at the age of 84 years, from old age complications, after an illness of more than a year, in the course of an extended illness, the News says:

Josiah Turner was born September 1, 1821, in New Haven township, Addison county, Vt., and received his academic education in the famous old schools of Middlebury and St. Albans. After graduating, he commenced his legal studies in the office of his uncle, the Hon. Bates Turner, formerly a Vermont supreme justice. He was admitted to the bar in 1837, and opened an office in the village of West Berkshire. Two years later he married a daughter of Dr. Ellsworth of Berkshire, Vt. In 1840 Mr. and Mrs. Turner moved to Howell, Mich., and the former again took up the practice of law in his new home.

Two years later he was elected clerk of Livingston county, and held the office six years. He was, thereafter, justice of the peace, township clerk, and master in chancery.

In 1846 the county court system was established by law, and he had the honor of becoming the first judge of Livingston. This office he held for four years.

At the general State election in 1856, Judge Turner was elected judge of the supreme court of this State. This was in the face of a normal democratic majority, although the judge was a republican. In May, 1857, Governor Kinsley S. Bingham, who was a great admirer and a personal friend of Judge Turner's, appointed him to fill a vacancy on the supreme court bench.

Later the same year he was chosen judge of the seventh judicial circuit for a term of six years. He was re-elected thereafter at the end of each term, in 1863 without opposition, until he had served more than a quarter of a century on the bench; had held circuit court in over 40 counties in the State, and officiated in every circuit but one.

After retiring in the early eighties, he served as United States consul at Amherstburg, Ont.

In 1890 Judge Turner moved to Owasco, and for nearly half a century had been a resident of that city. He was mayor in 1894-5, and was ever a progressive and enterprising citizen.

Judge Turner is survived by two of his five children, Mrs. H. M. Newcomb, of Washington, D. C., and Miss Nellie Turner, of Owasco, who has been her father's cherished companion during the years of his invalidism.

Fifty national banks of Vermont in their last report to the comptroller of the currency, Washington, state loans and discounts, \$14,986,211; lawful money reserve in bank, gold coin, \$267,730; legal tender notes, \$558,431; individual deposits, \$13,090,845; percentage of legal reserve to deposits, 16.56.

Chittenden County Trust Co.

That the Banking Public appreciate the conveniences and courtesies of this institution is proven by its more than phenomenal growth. Experienced bankers gave us three years to accomplish what we have done in five months. Join us. We welcome large and small depositors.

President: J. J. SMITH. Vice-President: JOHN J. FLYNN. E. D. WORTHEN. HARRIE W. HALL. Treasurer: E. J. SMITH. Directors: E. J. SMITH, JOHN J. FLYNN, A. O. HUMPHREY, E. F. WOODBURY, W. B. MCKILLIP, J. S. PATRICK, R. A. COOKE, E. F. GEBHARDT, J. H. MACOMBER.

VERMONT NOTES

A Brattleboro stamp brought \$13.50 at a sale of the Collectors' club, New York city.

The late C. P. Rhodes of Richmond bequeathed \$1,000 to the Universalist Church in that town.

The Hon. Allen M. Fletcher of Cavendish has recovered from his recent operation for appendicitis.

Marie Agnes Davis, a 12-year-old Springfield lass, shows exceptional talent as a singer, violinist and mimic.

Benjamin M. Washburn of Bethel has been chosen valedictorian of this year's graduating class at Dartmouth.

J. C. McDonald of Ludlow is the newly elected captain of the Brown University Swimming association.

Former City Judge Allan G. Fay of Barre will deliver the Memorial day address at Newport this year.

The building erected in Bristol for the condensed milk company is still vacant, and local papers urge the citizens to hasten and get some industry started there.

Brattleboro's Waterwagon minstrels netted \$5 which will nearly provide for the sprinkling of streets the coming summer.

If the Pony Telephone company of Addison county can not sell its lines to the New England company, it will renew its lease of five years.

Governor Proctor has been invited to deliver the principal address at the anniversary exercises of the Brattleboro Y. M. C. A. the first Sunday in May.

The annual convention of the Vermont State Sunday school convention will probably be held in Manchester October 5 to 10, a week earlier than usual.

A large portrait of Dr. George W. Phillips, for many years pastor of the Congregational church at Rutland, has been hung in the church parlors there.

A weatherwise Vermonters says "it never gets warm in the spring till the snow gets out of the woods, and the snow can't get out of the woods till it gets warm."

Muster this year of the State militia will probably be held at Fort Ethan Allen and the regiment is not likely to be sent to Jamestown because of the cost.

S. W. Brush has the largest maple sugar making plant in Fairfax. He has tapped 2,000 trees and has two boiling places.

Another resident of Lyndonville has invented a door hanger for freight cars. It's William Bailey and railroad men pronounce his model a good one.

Ralph and Daniel Burns of Underhill come into the line light with this for a month's hunting record: Three skunks, 5 woodchucks, 3 raccoons, 2 bobcats.

The single egg record in Cambridge has been made by a hen belonging to Mrs. Robert. It is 8-4 by 6-4 inches in size.

School directors of Ludlow, Cavendish, Mount Holly and Weston have formed a school union and engaged E. Howard Dorsey of Ludlow as superintendent at a yearly salary of \$1,200.

Brattleboro laundries plan to raise rates with similar concerns about the State. The new scale for collars is two and one-half cents; for cuffs, five cents the pair.

About 100 visitors are expected in Brattleboro next week at the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, New England Order of Protection, Monday and Tuesday are the days.

The village of Westminster is to be incorporated and a meeting is called for April 20 to elect officers. Nearly three-fourths of the voters signed the petition asking for incorporation.

At the next meeting of the Lake Bomoseen Yacht club May 1, plans will be considered for the erection of a club house. Effort is being made to have every yacht owner in the vicinity join the club.

Rutland builders report an encouraging outlook. During the past year 156 applications for permits for the erection of new buildings and for repairs on old ones were filed.

William Brown's medicine factory at Richmond, where Brown's Drops are made, is to be converted into a tenement house and the laboratory removed to the second floor of Mr. Brown's house.

The great snow fall this week around Chester damaged fruit trees and crushed shrubbery. The ground is covered by a stage driver, in order to get through the woods, was obliged to send a man ahead.

As soon as the frost is out of the ground, work will be begun at East Burke on a new public hall, 20x65 feet, suitable for entertainments and lodge room.

Charles L. Pollard of Washington, D. C., secretary of the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America, will speak in Woodstock May 25, under the auspices of the Village Improvement society.

They think lots of the birds in Ludlow. The ruby crowned kinglet has arrived and joined the feather crowd at the free lunch counter spread by thoughtful housekeepers.

The repair and blacksmith shop of W. N. Putnam was destroyed by fire at Hyde Park Friday. By hard labor the flames were kept from spreading to buildings close by.

The present membership of the Brattleboro board of trade is 170 and there is \$1,500 in the treasury. Annual reports show that much good has been accomplished during the year.

Felix McDietrich aspires even higher than the democratic nomination for district attorney at Boston. He wants to be mayor. He had the same aspiration in St. Albans but was never elected although nominated enough.

Rufus Rawson, aged 78 years, is dead at Brattleboro. He was a hotel keeper and

farmer and a lineal descendant of the first settler in this county, Edward Rawson, who was secretary of the Massachusetts bay colony several years.

Second honors in the Inter-scholastic Basketball League, Montpelier high and Burlington high, Montpelier high and St. Johnsbury Academy. The dispute will be settled to-morrow at the meeting to be held in Montpelier.

The base ball coach of the Montpelier Seminary team this season will probably be John Atkinson of Washington, D. C., who is in the employ of Senator Dillingham and has accompanied him to Montpelier for the past two seasons.

The Pennington county fish warden received Saturday 50,000 trout fry for distribution in the larger streams of the county. The fish were sent from the State fish hatchery and were all in good condition.

The Barre city school commissioners are trying to get around the need for a new school building by erecting a two-room addition to the Brook street school house. The greatest congestion of pupils is at that school.

In the hope of husbanding the water supply which has been decreasing seriously during the last few years, New Haven has voted to reinstall water meters which were in use there some time ago.

All Franklin county courts of the independent Order of Forestry, will meet in St. Albans Monday evening, B. J. McPherson of Toronto, deputy supreme chief ranger, will address the convention.

A change in granite firms at Barre is announced. Charles R. Scott, managing member of Wells, Lamson & Co., has bought out that firm and also E. O. Townsend's interest in the firm of Scott & Townsend.

Plenty of building will engage the attention of White River Junction the coming season. Work at Billings Park, a \$3,000 school building, a large addition to the Junction House and a raft of small jobs are on the docket.

Next week the case against Dr. J. N. Boyd of Bellows Falls who is charged with causing the death of Miss Eva Martin of Proctorville, is set for hearing in Windham county court. The girl died in his office October 20, 1906.

South Londonderry reports that while the railway has complied with the law regarding the posting of passenger rates and freight tariffs in the station, where they are handy to turn to, not one person in a hundred can figure out what they mean.

The gross receipts from "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh," given at the Rutland Opera House four evenings last week, under the auspices of Roberts Post, G. A. R., were about \$500. This sum less expenses will be added to the fund for helping needy soldiers and their families.

The Dog River Gun club of Northfield has elected the following officers: President, W. A. Shaw; vice-president, W. P. Springer; secretary, H. L. Britain; treasurer, G. Starrett; field captain, H. C. Mosley; assistant field captain, William Allen; executive committee, George Dunham; L. A. I. Chapman, S. C. Kimball.

Fifty seven attended a road meeting in White River Junction Thursday. Thirty commissioners and selectmen were present from Windsor county and about 15 from Orange county. It was pronounced one of the largest and most enthusiastic meetings of the kind ever held in Vermont.

A genuine grandfather's clock which has ticked away for more than two centuries is going to the Vermont building at the Jamestown exposition. It is the property of Mrs. H. Charles Royce of St. Albans, who is the great-great-granddaughter of the famous revolutionary general, Israel Putnam, of Connecticut.

In the sugar bush of J. A. Spaulding of Cavendish 75 gallons were taken from two trees at one gathering. Photographs show that on one tree there are 32 buckets. On nine trees were 112 buckets and from them 125 gallons of sap were taken at one gathering. Mr. Spaulding calls this the best sugar season in 30 years.

Fifteen applications for eight liquor licenses in Bellows Falls have been filed. These include four for first-class, eight for second class, three for fifth class. Last year the commissioners refused to grant any bottle licenses. If they see it they can grant four first-class licenses, two of the second class and two drug-gists' licenses.

Nathan L. Cobb was made a master Mason in Lee Lodge at Castleton 50 years ago, April 8. With one exception all the other members are dead. The golden anniversary was observed at Castleton by a lunch and smoke talk attended by most of the members of Lee Lodge and by Masons from Rutland, Foulney, Bennington, Fair Haven and other places.

The bronze tablet, four feet by two and one-half, that is to be placed on the William Lloyd Garrison marker at Bennington has arrived there. The marker will be erected next month. The tablet bears this inscription: "Fifty feet west of this spot William Lloyd Garrison edited the Journal of the Times, October 3, 1828—March 27, 1829."

At a meeting of the trustees of Lyndon Institute, Saturday, Cardinal L. Goodwin of Essex, Mass., was chosen principal for the next school year to succeed M. M. Harris, whose resignation takes effect in June. E. V. Perkins, principal of Lyndon Academy, was also chosen one of the teachers of the same institution.

In Poultney the other day at the "Boston" state quarry, a five-inch drill was used in boring six holes into which 500 pounds of dynamite and 20 pounds of nitro-glycerine were poured. When exploded earth and rock to the depth of 40 feet and covering an area of 2,400 square feet was thrown to the pit below. It is figured that the quantity of rubbish removed would weigh 14,000 tons.

While driving his daughter to the railroad station, W. G. Beebe of Manchester lost control of his horse. Mildred was

thrown out and her shoulder blade broken and Mr. Beebe after breaking the dash-board in and endeavor to stop the runaway was wedged between the crossbar and the horse so tightly that he could not move. Pulled from his embarrassing position, Mr. Beebe was found to have escaped with a shaking up.

In 12 years past, the Brattleboro fire department has received 141 calls; total fire losses, \$94,600; average loss per fire, \$670. The combined loss of two fires was \$30,000 and in both there was good reason why the flames could not be controlled. Aside from these, the average loss for each call was about \$450. In the total of 141 calls, 44 still alarms are included which averaged a loss of less than \$1 each.

For loading a horse with both forward ankles broken a distance of two miles to his home, after which he killed the suffering beast, Peter Parizo of Chelsea has been fined \$3 and costs, a total of \$7.66. Mr. Parizo paid and explained that he knew the horse ought to be killed but feared to end its life on the high road and a neighbor's land for fear he would be liable to a fine for so doing. He therefore led the animal home.

The Columbian Marble Quarrying company has abandoned the large "umbrella quarry" at West Rutland and the old Columbian quarry at Proctor; its traveling men have been called in; another section of its mills closed and a large number of mill hands and quarrymen discharged.

Dr. George F. Gale will be held at the Methodist Church in Brattleboro this afternoon. He died Sunday, aged 73 years. Dr. Gale was a prominent man in his profession; was first surgeon of the 8th Vt. '61-'62, resigning on account of illness. He had charge of a small hospital in San Francisco one year and came to Brattleboro in 1855, practicing there longer than any other physician or surgeon who ever lived in that town.

Jacob Way committed suicide at West Danville Friday by drinking a large dose of cedar oil. Though medical aid was quickly summoned he lived but a short time. He was in his 75th year and had been very melancholy since the death of his wife about a year ago. He had spent the winter at the home of his son, Hollis Way, and just before drinking the fatal potion he told his son's wife he was sick of living and was going to die. He leaves six children, three boys and three girls.

Arthur Russell of Bennington, who has moved with his family from the county jail where he was in charge for several years, has had a number of noted criminals in his keeping. Among them were Mary Rogers, Stella Bates and Leon Pershing, who were there a long time awaiting trial, charged with the murder of Marcus Rogers; Eugene Sargood of the Arlington poisoning case; Lavina Landsear of Dorset, the "bandit queen"; Johnson, the Bondville murderer now serving in the State prison at Windsor; Mears, now serving 20 years in the State prison for attempting to poison in Sandgate; and Arthur Haskbrook, the Wardsboro postoffice burglar.

At the new training stables in Middlebury, of which John W. Porter has charge, a new arrival is Fabiola, 2½ years. She is highly bred. Her sire was McField, 2½, a son of that Tennessee horse, McEwen, 2½, by McCurdy's Hambletonian. Fabiola's dam is Goldie Wilkes, a daughter of Charles Wilkes, 2½, a son of the famous Red Wilkes. Her record is Ella Jackson, one of Paul and Lambert's choicest daughters. Her third dam was the noted brood mare, Fanny Jackson, dam of Arkes, 2½, and Anna Paige, 2½, by Arthur's Stone-well Jackson, son of William's Black Hawk.

FARMER WILL PROFIT. Season Has Been a Good One. Reports to Bradstreet's for the week make a decided change in outlook for maple sugar product. A fall of snow coupled with a warm wave and but little wind has produced a heavy run of sap and careful inquiry shows that what has already been gathered equals total output of last year and there is promise of still more to be had. Early last week the prices were more or less high as is expected on first runs; tendency is now toward a lower price, but in any event the farmer will profit by a good season.

The strike among the granite cutters at Hardwick which has covered a period of a little over five weeks, is declared off and cutters are at work again. Manufacturers in that section are reported to have work on hand to be completed and with labor trouble settled outlook for business is not less than encouraging. From the State belt comes reports that manufacturers are still busy and demand for billiard stone holds good, but plans are being employed largely on old orders. It is too early yet for new work to come as spring building has not advanced far toward demand and interior finish work. Some business is being done among merchants at Fair Haven by reason that there is an expected labor trouble among the slate quarry workers, who want a change from ten hours a day to nine hours with pay formerly received; they are also asking for some other concessions. Reports from agricultural districts show roads are in good condition for travel, but frost is rapidly working out of the ground and the snow of the week will be productive of much good in not only filling up the streams, but beneficial to grass. Manufacturing interests throughout the state are doing a large volume of business, some of them are forced to turn away orders. Wholesale merchants reported in recently preceding favorable years, and the lightest total of commercial mortality reported in that period for twenty-five years past. Total number of failures for quarter just ended were 209; 1906 for same period showed 292 in United States. Records of New England States show failures for the quarter of 67, Maine 28, eight less than previous year. New Hampshire 16, same number 1906. Vermont 18, an increase of three over previous year. Massachusetts 157, decrease of seven; Rhode Island 27, decrease of seven, and Connecticut 35, decrease of 16. While Vermont statistics regarding assets and liabilities are worth comparing as they show a decrease in aggregate of both assets and liabilities.

Assets 1907, \$28,000—1906, \$43,000. Liabilities 1907, \$87,000—1906, \$88,075.

Burlington Savings Bank

INCORPORATED 1847.

Had January 1, 1907, 24,677 Depositors

Total Assets \$10,989,194.52.

The bank has always paid highest rate of interest allowed by law.

Can now legally pay 4 PER CENT. to depositors and will no doubt do so commencing January 1, 1907.

All taxes in this State paid by the bank on deposits of \$2,000 or less.

Deposits can be made or withdrawn by mail.

Money loaned on legal security at lowest rates.

OFFICERS:

CHARLES P. SMITH, President,
HENRY GREENE, Vice-President,
E. W. WARD, Treasurer,
E. S. ISHAM, Asst. Treasurer.

TRUSTEES:

C. P. SMITH, WILLARD CRANE,
HENRY GREENE, J. L. BARNSTOW,
HENRY WELLS, F. W. WARD,
A. G. WHITEMORE, F. W. PERRY.

4%

THE BURLINGTON TRUST CO.

Savings Department.

Rate Guaranteed

Taxes paid as provided by law.

City Hall Square—North.

4%

Winooski Savings Bank.

WINOOSKI, VT.

Four Per Cent

will undoubtedly be paid to depositors from January 1, 1907.

All Vermont taxes are paid by this bank on deposits of \$2,000 or less.

Assets January 1, 1907 : : : : \$1,378,766.11

Orman P. Ray President, Ormond Cole Treasurer.

Home Savings Bank

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Confident that this bank fully meets the public's needs, we tender its services to all who believe in keeping on the SAFE SIDE.

C. S. ISHAM, President.

N. K. BROWN, Treasurer.

LOCAL SUPERVISION OF SCHOOLS

(From the Landmark.)

At the last session of the Legislature an important law was passed, so weighty indeed, that the governor in speaking of it said: "It will mark the Legislature of 1906 as having done more for the State of Vermont than any previous Legislature in many years." This law relates to the local supervision of schools and the appointment of a competent superintendent who "shall direct the work of the teachers and pupils, prescribe courses of study, supervise the purchase and distribution of books and supplies, and may dismiss a teacher who, in his judgment, is incompetent and unfit, and shall have all the powers and perform all the various duties required by law of town superintendents of schools."

Under this law "any two or more neighboring towns having an aggregate of not more than 70 nor less than 20 schools of not less than 28 weeks each, may by vote of the school directors of the several towns, unite to form a union for the purpose of employing a superintendent of schools," so that each community is in this respect a law unto itself. The farmers of this measure had in mind, not only the betterment of the present school system, but were careful to provide generous State aid to the several localities disposed to make a trial of the new law, it being provided, "that the towns uniting have raised by taxation, appropriated and paid in any one year, not less than \$1,250, as a salary for a superintendent of schools, and that under the provisions of this act a superintendent has been employed for one year," then in that event "the State treasurer shall apportion the sum of \$1000 among the several towns forming the union according to their grand lists." The sum of \$250 is the least salary that may be paid. The school directors are empowered to pay more if, in their judgment, it is thought advisable. It seems to us